

From: Gary Russell [mailto:abalonetv@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2006 7:05 PM
To: mlpacomments@resources.ca.gov
Subject: MLPAComments: MLPA input for the Monterey Bay

Dear BRTF members,

I know you are getting deluged with input from all directions, so I will try to make this short and to the point. I have owned and operated an abalone farm in the Monterey Bay for over 20 years. We rely on two things; 1) quality seawater, and 2) local kelp availability. Luckily we always have the quality seawater and normally have the kelp. The kelp supply does annually come and go with the nature's winter surge and we have learned how to deal with that by being conservative with what nature provides, supplemented by the drift kelp that we are able to find. In the winter, it is critical that we have the Cannery Row kelp to rely on. The kelp plants west of Cannery Row, even those that are "about a half an inch further out on the map", are either gone for the winter or are too treacherous to attempt to harvest. If you truly support aquaculture, please make a statment here, Cannery Row might seem like a small bon! e to throw to the vocal few, but the abalone farms in the Monterey Bay cut kelp sustainably and rely on the Cannery Row kelp for survival.

Good luck in your work, we know that your decision will not be easy.

Gary Russell
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